

April 3, 1984

LB 803

does, what it does is it says to the citizens of the state that you cannot opt out of one of the very basic responsibilities of citizenship in this state merely by deciding not to register to vote. What we have now is a system where people can by not registering to vote, they not only opt out of one of their basic responsibilities of citizenship, that is voting, they also then have a procedure where they will never ever be chosen to serve on a jury. We need broadened participation in both of these concepts, both voter participation and in jury selection. We have had a number of studies done in other states, as I have said, and 25 states in the nation use this procedure. Current use of voter registration list in the...exclusive use of voter registration list for jury selection ends up in juries that discriminate against nonwhites, against blue collar workers, against the young and elderly and it also discriminates against women. We have juries that are nonrepresentative of our entire population. I would like to get into the specific merits of this bill a little later when we get on to the bill itself. At this time I would ask you to vote no on the kill motion.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, members of this body, I also oppose LB 803 and would support the kill motion. I still don't feel that people who are not willing to take part in the elective system in our country are really good material for jurors. If you don't care about your government enough to vote, I don't know why you should be forced to be a juror, or have that privilege is what it really is, to make those decisions. I think our jury selection has worked well. I know that some people, they say, I have no proof of this, do not register to vote because they are afraid that they will be called for jury duty. I don't believe that this is widespread. There may be some that have said that. I think our system works and if you mix in all the driver license people you are going to get into a mix up, you are going to have...you are going to have to screen for age, you are going to have to screen for the location where these people live. Many people live in an area and they have gotten their drivers' license somewhere else. They aren't